A Quarter of a Century

(1876-1901)

Sketch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. (W.D.)

By Agnes F. Robinson



1901
TORONTO

The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA



Queen's University at Kingston

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory."

A Quarter of a Century

THE following sketch is prepared with a twofold purpose. Its first object is to recount with humble and devout gratitude all the way by which the Lord has led us during the first twenty-five years of our existence as a Society, and also to record our loving remembrance and appreciation of the promoters and pioneers of the Society. All honor to the brave women who in faith and courage began this great missionary movement, and who, trusting not in their own strength or wisdom, but looking to the Divine Spirit for guidance, were enabled to overcome many difficulties and to lay the foundations of the organization broad and deep, as they watched over its interests and bore the burden and heat of the day in the early years of our history. Some of these have heard the Master's voice saying "Come up higher," and have exchanged the earthly service for the heavenly, and some are still with us and still giving of their best in ripe experience and wise counsel to the work of the Society.

The photographs which by the kindness of friends we are able to present in these pages will be prized by very many. With the exception of that of Mrs. Jeffrey, who did not become a member of the Board until a somewhat later period, they are all portraits of those who may be called the founders of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. It would have been a pleasure to have given more portraits, but the limits of the sketch forbade any enlargement of the number.

It will be impossible to relate in detail all the occurrences and interesting points in the quarter century life of our Society. What is omitted will be found in the Reports, a re-perusal of which at this time would be both pleasant and profitable.

Historical

Early in 1876 a notice from the Foreign Mission Committee of the Canada Presbyterian Church (Western Division) appeared in the Toronto daily papers calling a meeting of ladies to consider the formation of a woman's society for foreign missions. The first meeting was held on February 17th at which the Rev. Dr. MacLaren and Rev. Dr. Topp were present and expressed the wish of the Committee that such a society be organized on similar lines with existing societies in the American Presbyterian Church. A committee, composed of the Rev. Drs. Topp and MacLaren with Mesdames Ewart, King, Macdonnell, Harvie, Gregg, Topp, Reid, McMurrich, Cameron, Robb, McLellan, Smith and Miss Haight, was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. Several preliminary meetings were held for this purpose, and on March 21st the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was organized in due form, the constitution and by-laws adopted, and the board and officers appointed.

The object of the Society, as the Constitution set forth, was to aid the F. M. Committee in the support of its work among heathen women and children, to interest the women and children of the Church in this work, and to call forth in a systematic way their prayers and free-will offerings in its behalf.

From the beginning the organization and management of the Society has been entirely in its own hands, the executive business being vested in the Board of Management. The Board was at first composed of thirty-two ladies residing in Toronto. In the third year it was increased to thirty-six, including six non-resident members selected from central points throughout the Society, with the Presidents of Auxiliaries as Vice-Presidents. This arrangement lasted until the ninth year. From that date the thirty-six were always chosen from those resident in Toronto, Presidents of Auxiliaries and Presbyterial Societies continuing to be Vice Presidents *ex-officio*. In 1884, Mission Band Presidents were added and became entitled to a seat on the Board. The Board and officers have always been elected at the Annual Meeting of the Society, every member having paid the annual fee of one dollar or the life member's fee of twenty-five dollars being qualified to vote.*

The first Nominating Committee was selected in 1883. It was composed of members at different centres, its object being to seek out suitable persons during the year to fill vacancies in the Board of thirty-six.

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*Life members' certificates were first issued in 1883, and it was at that time that the Society's motto "The World for Christ" was adopted.

The first monthly meeting was held on the 4th of April, 1876, at which fifty women enrolled themselves as members. At the General Assembly in June the constitution was approved and the Society commended to the Church.

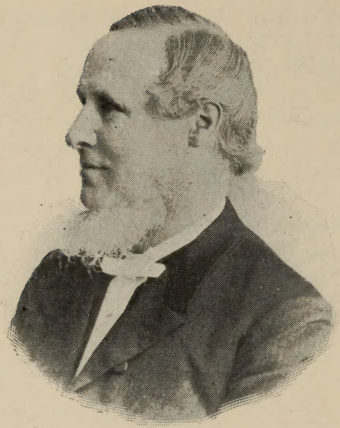
The organizing of Auxiliaries and Mission Bands was the first step taken by the Board. Copies of the constitution were sent to pastors in the cities and towns, and in many cases Auxiliaries were formed by ministers in their own congregations. The first Auxiliary outside Toronto was organized in this way at Lancaster by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Ross, who did much to promote interest in the movement in that district of country. Rev. Dr. MacLaren organized many of the first branches taking opportunity to do so as his duty called him to preach in various places Eighteen Auxiliaries and three Mission Bands were formed the first year.



Mrs. MacLaren

Much pioneer work was done in early years by Mrs. MacLaren and Mrs. Harvie and in later years much visiting was done by Mrs. Shortreed and Mrs. Jeffrey. The visiting of branches entailed fatigue and self-sacrifice, but those who marked the results of their efforts felt amply rewarded. The Society never had an official organizer, but from the beginning personal effort was a controlling influence in extending the work, and no better means of interesting the indifferent has yet been discovered. The work was carried on very quietly. There was no undue pressure brought to bear and Auxiliaries were nearly always formed with the hearty co-operation of pastors.

Many devoted women at different centres did noble service in organizing and in encouraging weak branches. Among the pioneers the names of Mrs. Gordon, Harrington; Mrs. Blair, Prescott; Miss Cameron, Sarnia; Mrs. Ball, Vanneck; Mrs. Smellie, Fergus; Mrs. Roger, London; Mrs. Fraser, Glengarry; Mrs McCrae Guelph; and Mrs. Watt, Winnipeg, are well-known to us all; but in truth from one end of the Society to the other the women who have done their part faithfully are so great a host that even to mention their names would occupy all our space.



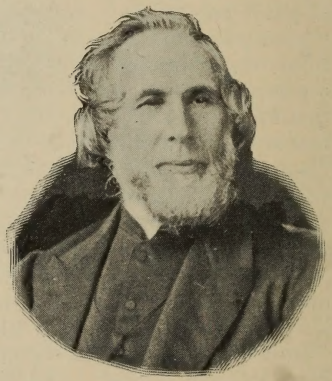
Rev. Dr. MacLaren

At the first annual meeting held in Knox Church, Toronto, April 17th, 1877, a Presbyterial constitution was adopted. Presbyterial organization was, however, of necessity a gradual development following wherever Auxiliaries in sufficient numbers were working within Presbytery bounds. It was not until early in the eighties that Presbyterials began to be generally formed. Between 1880 and 1890 twenty-five were organized, forming centres of operations covering almost the whole of the Western Division of the Church of that time. Glenboro' and Westminster in the West, formed at later dates, complete the present total of twenty-seven Presbyterials.*

The period between 1880 and 1890 witnessed a notable expansion of the work, Auxiliaries and Bands being greatly multiplied mainly through the efficient agency of the Presbyterial Societies and the visits of their Presidents and officers. The Presbyterial Annual Meetings have always been occasions of deep interest, and especially of late years have been most ably conducted, both in regard to business details and other features.

Visits of missionaries on furlough have been highly appreciated and an expression of gratitude is due to them for their self-sacrificing labors throughout the Society. Almost every Annual Report refers to the pleasure and stimulus received from their addresses

In the fifteenth year the little band of fifty had grown to an approximate total of 15,951. Until quite recently it has not been possible to obtain perfectly accurate returns of the numerical strength of the Society ; the tab-



Rev. Dr. Topp

* Almost simultaneously with the formation of the General Society, two Presbyterials began work separately under constitutions similar to our own, the first at Kingston and the second at Hamilton. Both eventually united with the W.F.M.S., Hamilton in 1879, and Kingston in 1885.

ulated forms now in use have however obviated this difficulty to a great extent.

The latest returns give the total number of members as 21,279.

Although these figures seem large, the fact must not be concealed that by far the larger proportion of the women of the Church have not yet seen their way to unite with the Society.

While it is certain that our present strength could never have been attained without Presbyterial organization, the isolated Auxiliaries deserve honorable mention. From Quebec, in the East, to the Pacific Coast, we find here and there little bands of faithful workers persevering nobly without the stimulus of association with neighbouring societies. Ormstown, organized in 1877, was one of the earliest of these. We have also two Auxiliaries composed of Christian Indian women in the Northwest.

The Scattered Helpers, introduced by Mrs. Thorburn, of Ottawa, in 1889, have given valuable aid, both in contributions and in interesting many who otherwise would have been precluded by force of circumstances from sharing in the work. Many invalids have thus helped by prayer and gifts, and who shall say how large a part such may have had in the results of to-day? In some cases Scattered Helpers have formed the nucleus of new Auxiliaries. The contribution from this order of members in the twenty-fifth year amounts to $1,068.58.

The plan originally contemplated of having an Auxiliary and a Mission Band in every congregation and all branches within Presbytery bounds grouped together in Presbyterial order, has now at the end of twenty-five years to a large extent, at least as regards Auxiliaries, been carried out, and during recent years the energy of workers in the older sections of the Church has been directed principally to strengthening the Society in an intelligent knowledge of the work. Improved methods are being used in many places. Great development in preparing for the monthly meetings may be noted. Programme committees have become quite general. They are materially assisted by the publications of the Society, especially *Foreign Missionary Tidings*, where full information regarding our own Missions may always be found. Systematic Bible study has also become a marked feature. Circulating libraries have been formed in a few places. The first of these were reported from the London and Chatham Presbyterials in 1887.

Thank-offering meetings begun in 1885 and now held annually almost everywhere, have always been looked forward to as the central point of interest of the year. These have been an untold blessing, not so much from the amount of the offerings, though that has been large, as in the quickening of spiritual life.

For the same reason mention must be made of the foremost place given to prayer. The Sabbath evening union of prayer in which every member is expected to join is at the same hour with sister societies in the United States, from five to six o'clock on Sabbath evening. Very early in the history of the Society members were enjoined to bear this in mind. Subjects for prayer were first sent out to Auxiliaries in 1879, and the Prayer Card, a copy of which every member is entitled to have, was first printed in 1882. A day of special prayer was first observed in January, 1892.

No part of the work has given more encouragement and at the same time more concern than the Mission Bands. While we rejoice in having to record at the present date 315 of these nurseries of our Society, it would not be right to shut our eyes to the fact that the number of Bands relatively to the number of Auxiliaries, is far short of what it ought to be at the end of twenty-five years. The latest returns show the Auxiliaries to be more than twice as many in number and their membership almost twice as many as the Bands. Are the children being neglected? Here is a question which it will be necessary to face resolutely, for if this link in the chain be not strengthened we know full well what will be the fatal result. Indeed, it must be confessed that the keeping up of this part of the work has been more or less of a problem ever since the beginning, and the solution is not yet reached. It would seem that almost everything depends under the divine blessing upon suitable leaders. Good results have been obtained where the meetings have been conducted on lines similar to Sabbath-schools. Following this plan with an efficient leader and a good staff of assistants the children have been thoroughly trained in missionary knowledge, and at the same time directed in useful handiwork for schools, hospitals or other proper objects.

Miss Ferrier, of Caledonia, did much by way of interesting and instructing the Bands in her series of Mission Studies on our own Church's fields which were published in the *Letter Leaflet* from 1890 to 1894.

During the meeting of the World's Council of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches in Toronto, September, 1892, a Woman's Missionary Conference was held, the outcome of which was the forming of the International Union of Women's Foreign Missionary Societies. The Canadian W.F.M.S. forms a part of this Alliance and was represented by delegates at the meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1896, and in Washington in 1899.

Publications

From the beginning prominence was given to the circulation of missionary intelligence. At first letters from missionaries were copied by hand and sent out, and in the second year duplicates were reproduced by members of the Society in Toronto and a copy sent to each Auxiliary secretary, to be read at the monthly meetings. These letters were a most effective means of arousing interest. To the majority who heard them their contents were nothing less than a revelation, so little was then generally known of the condition of heathen women.



Mrs. Ewart

The *Monthly Letter Leaflet* first appeared under that name in 1884. The price was 12 cents per year, which was not advanced until 1899 when it was raised to 15 cents. The subscription list was very small at first, the presidents, secretaries and life members for some time receiving the *Letter Leaflet* free, but it was not long till the advantage of possessing it for their own began to be felt by members, and in 1887 the circulation had reached 1,500. In July, 1897, the title was changed to *Foreign Missionary Tidings*, and the form enlarged and otherwise improved, and again in 1899 it was still further enlarged and improved until it now presents a very neat and attractive appearance, with a subscription list of 16,406. The first editor was Mrs. Campbell, who was then Home Secretary. When Mrs. Campbell became Secretary of Supplies the *Letter Leaflet* was given in charge to Mrs. G. H. Robinson, then Recording Secretary, who edited it for nine years, and was succeeded by Mrs. MacGillivray in 1898.

The Society is indebted to the missionaries for their unfailing faithfulness in writing for the *Letter Leaflet* often under difficulties and fatigues of which we can form but a dim idea. Letters from missionaries of the Eastern Division have also added a large measure of interest.

The circulation of leaflets and pamphlets bearing upon the aims and methods of the Society and others serving to quicken missionary interest has been a most important feature of the publication department. Some of these have

been sent out free in large quantities, but for the majority of them a small charge has been made. These leaflets have been either specially prepared or carefully selected, the right to reprint many having been kindly granted by sister societies and other friends.

In 1881 Thankoffering Leaflets were first issued, and so great has been the demand for them that for years past many thousands have been sold annually and widely distributed. Mrs Telfer was appointed in 1884 to take charge of a part of the publications, Mrs. Campbell retaining the *Letter Leaflet*. In 1886 the business management of the *Letter Leaflet* also was placed in Mrs. Telfer's hands. In that year $125 was voted to extend her work. This sum was repaid to the general fund from profits of sales in 1891. Mrs. Telfer filled the office of Secretary-Treasurer of Publications until 1900 when the work becoming too heavy the department was divided with a stock on hand of the value of $250. The literature, including leaflets, pamphlets, maps, envelopes and mite boxes, was then given to a new secretary, Mrs. Donald, Mrs. Telfer continuing to be business manager of *Foreign Missionary Tidings*.

The following statement will convey some idea of what Mrs. Telfer's labors have been :

Total *Letter Leaflets*, *Foreign Missionary Tidings*, and other leaflets issued since 1881, 2,348,557.

Cash received from sales of literature and *F. M. Tidings* since the work was placed in Mrs. Telfer's hands, $17,943.52.

Cash handed over to general fund from profits on sales $4,854.16.

The contribution envelopes and mite boxes came into use in 1884 and much might be said of their helpfulness in promoting systematic giving.

The Thank-offering envelopes going out with their accompanying leaflets have gathered in many precious offerings great and small.

Maps of all our fields, at the lowest possible cost, are now being issued, so that we may no longer complain of the want of an adequate supply.

Contributions

For several years the contributions were handed over to the Agent of the Church to be expended by the F.M. Committee on the objects for which the Society was organized, without receiving from the Committee any detailed estimates or statement of expenditure. In the ninth year an estimate was given to the Board, but it was not until the twelfth year that the expenditure appeared in detail in the Annual Report Estimates for the coming year, with a table of



Mrs. Burns

expenditure, were first published in the *Letter Leaflet* of January, 1884, and such estimates have been sent out every year since that time. It is not an unreasonable conclusion that the very marked increase in contributions in the years immediately following 1884-5 was owing in part at least to this action in taking the Society into the confidence of the Board.

Besides meeting regular estimates a contribution was made for several years for teaching purposes in the New Hebrides and Trinidad through the Eastern Division.

In 1897-8 the sum of $1,368.00 which had been raised by small offerings as a memorial fund commemorating the twenty-first year of the Society's existence was presented to the F.M. Committee to assist in the general foreign work.

In 1900 about $8,000.00 passed through the hands of our treasurer from members of the W.F.M.S. in aid of the famine in India.

In the first year of its existence the Society raised $1,000.00 which was handed over to the Committee to be used in part payment of the salaries of the two ladies already employed in India.

In the twenty-fifth year, the Society's contributions amount to $45,000.52, supporting approximately 53 workers with their assistants at 38 stations in the several fields.

The total givings of the Society in twenty-five years amount as nearly as can be computed to $631,000, a sum which represents, we may safely say, much self-denial and consecration of purpose.



Mrs. King

The Foreign Work and Workers

The W.F.M S. is distinctly limited in its powers in regard to the foreign work, being by its constitution auxiliary to the Foreign Mission Committee which governs all appointments and salaries and regulates all affairs in the fields. In 1891, however, the F.M. Committee proposed that applications of women for foreign service be sent through the Woman's Board, and to meet this change a manual for the use of women offering for foreign mission work and for missionaries was prepared.

The support of missions for women and children has been undertaken by the W.F.M.S. in Malwa, Central India ; Honan, China ; Formosa, Japan ; and among the Indians of the Canadian Northwest and British Columbia.

Besides the salaries of workers in these fields, travelling expenses and furlough allowances, schools, hospitals and other buildings with requisite appointments, including necessary dwelling houses furnished in part, are provided.

India

We will now go back to the year 1871. In that year three young ladies offered themselves to the F M. Committee. Two, the Misses Rodger and Fairweather, were accepted, but the health of the third, Miss Patton, did not permit of her being sent to the foreign field. After a period of training the two ladies were sent in 1873 to labor under the American Presbyterian Church at Futtegurgh, India, the Canadian Church guaranteeing their support. In 1876 the Rev. J. M. Douglas, the first missionary of the Canadian Church to India, was sent out. He arrived at Indore in January, 1877, and the Misses Rodger and Fairweather soon after joined him there. In the autumn of 1877, Miss Forrester, of Halifax, and Miss McGregor, Brockville, went out with Mrs. Douglas. Miss Forrester afterwards became the wife of Rev. J. Fraser Campbell. Miss Fairweather was permitted to return to Canada in 1879 and ultimately retired from the staff. Miss McGregor also retired in 1888. Miss Rodger labored faithfully for eighteen years, when she tendered her resignation in 1891 to the great regret of the F.M. Committee and the W.F.M.S.

MEDICAL WORK

Medical work for women was begun in 1884 when Dr. Elizabeth Beatty was sent out. Two years later her hands were strengthened by the arrival of Dr. Marion Oliver. They made their headquarters at Indore where they carried on



Mrs. Macdonnell

the work under many difficulties until 1891, when the Woman's Hospital was opened, which has proved to be a priceless boon to the native women. Dr. Beatty, overworked in mind and body, was forced to return home in the same year to the great loss of the work and the deep regret of the Society, and has never been able to return to India. Dr. Oliver, we are glad to state, is still on the staff, and is now our senior missionary in India, having completed fifteen years of service. The medical staff was increased in October, 1890, by the addition of Dr. Margaret McKellar and Dr. W. Grant Fraser; in 1891 by Dr. Margaret O'Hara; in 1892 by Dr. Agnes Turnbull; in 1900 by Dr. Susanna McCalla,* and in 1901 by Dr. Margaret Wallace, of the Honan Mission. Miss Harriet Thomson, a trained nurse, went out in 1895, and has rendered most useful service in the Indore Hospital. Dr. W. Grant Fraser retired at the end of her first term, and Dr. Turnbull came home on furlough in 1899, much out of health but hoping yet to return to India.

Dispensary work had been carried on for some years at Dhar by Dr. O'Hara, and in 1898 a hospital was opened at that station. At Neemuch, also, under Drs. McKellar and Turnbull, medical work has become so large that a small hospital has been opened there. A nurses' training class was opened last year in connection with the Indore Hospital.

SCHOOLS

Prominence has been given to education in all our missions, the gathering in and instruction of children being rightly regarded as the most important and hopeful element in the work. In this department we have at Indore the Girls' Boarding School completed in 1892. The school had been re-opened in rented quarters in July, 1890, at Neemuch under the principalship of Miss Harris, sent out in 1889. Previous to that time, it had been under the care of Miss Rodger at Indore. Miss Harris was in every way especially qualified for

* Dr. McCalla is supported by the Montreal Woman's Missionary Society.

the work, and was looking forward to years of happy usefulness when her health failed. A sea voyage being recommended she sailed for England accompanied by Dr. McKellar, but passed away shortly after reaching London, in February, 1892. Miss Sinclair, who was appointed to succeed her, is still in charge. The Boarding School by latest reports has an average attendance of 100 pupils. There are also at Indore three vernacular schools and one camp school, which for some time have been under the care of Miss White and Miss Grier. Miss Plotemy, who had been engaged in the Indore work, has just returned to India from furlough.

Provision was made for normal classes in Indore College, in which Misses White, Chase and Plotemy, assisted for some time.

Neemuch has five schools and an orphanage with 165 children, under Miss Campbell and her assistants. Miss Duncan, who has just returned to India to enter upon a second term of service, belongs to the Neemuch staff.

At Mhow there are two village schools under the care of Miss Weir.

Ujjain—three Mohullah schools and a school for the blind taught by Miss Jamieson, assisted by Miss Goodfellow.

Dhar—one regular school under Dr. O'Hara.



Mrs. Alexander (Miss Topp)

These statistics must be regarded as only approximate. The missionaries have been too busy with the famine to make full reports, and the educational work has during the past year been to a great extent merged in the famine relief.

EVANGELISTIC WORK

Evangelistic work for women and children is carried on side by side with education at all the stations. Zenana visiting has been undertaken wherever possible throughout the whole history of the mission. Sunday schools are in operation in connection with each of the day schools.

The terrible famine of 1899-1900, though it checked for a time some of the



Mrs. Harvie

ordinary branches of mission work, on the other hand brought with it marvellous opportunities of reaching the people, both in relieving their bodily hunger and in preaching the gospel, thousands being fed daily and at the same time taught the great truths of Christianity. The greatest benefit which the famine brought was undoubtedly in the rescue of children. This work entailed a most severe strain of anxiety and responsibility upon all our missionaries, while those who undertook the care of orphans had a still heavier burden when cholera and small-pox spread among them.

Besides the missionaries to India already named may be mentioned Miss Ross appointed 1883 and retired in 1898 after two terms of faithful service; Miss Scott, who went out with Miss Sinclair in 1889, and returned after a stay of two years; Miss McWilliams, 1891-1893, returned in ill-health; Miss Leyden, 1896-1900, retired from staff; Miss Chase, three years, 1895-1898, sick leave, withdrawn for the present; Miss Dougan, 1893, returned in ill-health 1897 and eventually retired; Miss Calder, 1892, served one term and retired; Miss Mackay, M.D., was sent to India by the W. F. M. S. in 1888, but was married to Dr. Buchanan on her arrival.

Formosa

A substantial building for the girls' school was erected by the W. F. M. S. at Tamsui in 1883, and provision according to estimate has been made every year since that date for woman's work in the mission.

Honan

In 1888 a Mission to Honan, North China, was undertaken by our Church. The first lady designated to this field was Miss H. B. Sutherland, a trained nurse, who, however, did not enter upon our work, but was married to the Rev. Dr. Hunter Corbett, of Chefoo, in the following year. Miss McIntosh and

Miss Graham, trained nurses, went out in 1889, but the health of Miss Graham giving way she returned to Canada in 1891. Her place was taken by her sister, Dr. Lucinda Graham, in 1892, who died suddenly at Chefoo in 1894 after two years of devoted service. It was not long till a volunteer for the vacant place offered, in the person of Dr. Jean Dow,* who was appointed and sent forth in 1895. In 1896 the staff was still further strengthened by the addition of the Misses Pyke and Robb. The latter shortly after became the wife of Dr. Menzies. In response to an urgent request for another medical lady Dr. Margaret Wallace was appointed and joined the staff in 1898.

A permanent entrance into Honan was not effected till September, 1891, three years and six months after the arrival of the first Canadian missionaries, when premises were at length secured at Chu Wang and Hsin Cheng. Work among the women gained a foothold slowly but surely. An interruption took place in 1894-5 through the war with Japan and other circumstances. In the following year an important station was opened at Chang te Fu, and mission work among women and children began to open up in a wonderful way. Station classes, Sabbath Bible classes, training classes for workers, and visiting among the villages have been the chief means employed The Report for 1898-9 states that eight women had been baptized and eleven were under probation. Two of the Bible women, Mrs. Wang and Mrs. Wu, women of strong Christian character and helpfulness, were a great comfort and assistance in the work.

A most promising beginning had been made when the Boxer movement broke out in June, 1900, and our missionaries were obliged to flee for their lives. The terrible hardship and peril of their journey of two weeks through a hostile country with their wonderful and almost miraculous escape cannot be set down in detail here. It is a thrilling story, and to have heard it from the lips of those who passed through the awful experiences of that time has been a means of strengthening our faith in God and deepening our desire and prayers for the salvation of the people of China. The unswerving faith of the converts on whom cruel persecutions fell has been a cause of devout thankfulness and hope for the future of the Church in Honan.

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* The salary of Dr. Dow is provided by the Montreal Woman's Missionary Society.

In 1878 letters from Mrs. Bryce, of Winnipeg, awakened the special interest of the Board in the Church's work for the Indians in the Northwest. When the Rebellion broke out in which our Christian Indians were conspicuous for their loyalty our interest was intensified, and within a short time aid was given to the schools at Okanase, Sioux Reserve, Bird Tail Creek Mistawasis and Prince Albert.



Mrs. Jeffrey

Want of clothing and the severity of the climate being mentioned as the chief causes for non–attendance at schools, an appeal for help was made in 1884 which was liberally met by the Auxiliaries, and every year since that date has seen large quantities of new and second-hand clothing and quilts forwarded from every part of the Society for the children in the schools and for the aged and infirm on the Reserves. So great a work did this grow to be that a special secretary was appointed to take charge of the correspondence and shipping. Mrs. Campbell was the first Supply Secretary, and was succeeded by Mrs. Jeffrey in 1890. Under the management of each of these secretaries the work became gradually systematized and controlled. There has now been for several years a regular plan of allotting supplies to each Presbyterial according to requests received from the various schools and reserves, the quantities given away diminishing year by year as the Indians improve in self–reliance and ability to earn. The supply work has been an unspeakable benefit to the Indians and a great encouragement to the missionaries as well as a means of blessing to the donors.

An acknowledgment may be made here of the kindness of the Canadian Pacific Railway which for three years granted half-rates of freight on our bales since then the Indian Department at Ottawa has continued to grant a re–fund of freight on clothing for which we are most grateful.

The progress made in every part of the work among the Indians is very apparent and satisfactory. In the older Reserves the changed conditions are

most encouraging. Twenty–one missions are now in operation. A new school in process of erection at Lake of the Woods will be named "The Cecilia Jeffrey School" in honor of our late lamented Secretary, who had the establishment of work at that point deeply at heart.

The Society supports six Boarding Schools in the Northwest and British Columbia with an attendance of about 300 children, the Government aiding in the maintenanee of the children of Treaty Indians. The Boarding Schools are situated at Crowstand, Birtle, Portage la Prairie, File Hills, Round Lake and at Alberni, B.C Day Schools are also maintained at Okanase, Mistawasis, Makoce Waste; and at Ahoushat, Ucluelet, Dodger's Cove, British Columbia.

We also assist in clothing the children at the Regina Industrial School.

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Woman's work for the Chinese in Victoria, B.C., was begun in 1900. Miss Carrie Gunn, a graduate of the Ewart Training Home, is our first missionary there.

Ewart Missionary Training Home

The importance of special preparation for missionary work in the line of biblical and theological instruction was recognized when the first ladies were sent to the foreign field, for whom a course of suitable tuition was provided. Classes for young women in theological subjects were formed in Toronto about that time under the auspices of professors in Knox College, and continued to be held for four years

A revival of the idea of providing training for applicants appeared in the fifteenth year of our history in the form of a resolution, and from that time forward was before the Society in different aspects for six years. At length, in September, 1897, the Ewart Missionary Training Home was opened, its name being bestowed in loving memory of our late President, who had been deeply interested in the Home, and had taken a leading part in its inception.

The Foreign Mission Committee were also in full concurrence with the Society in its establishment and appointed three of its members to act with representatives of the W. F. M. S. Board as a joint committee of management. In agreement with the wish of the Foreign Mission Committee, the constitution was framed to admit not only those who looked forward to foreign mission work but also students who might wish to fit themselves for any form of Christian usefulness either at home or abroad.

The Home is as yet in its infancy, but it is felt that it has accomplished excellent work and that it is a necessary and important part of the organization. The first superintendent was Mrs. Anna Ross, who occupied the position for two years, and was succeeded by Mrs. E. Livingston. Able instructors form the lecturing staff, and the course of study is liberal and thorough. Opportunity is also given of engaging in city mission work and nursing of the sick poor. The Home is supported from the funds of the Society and fees from students' board.

Fifteen students have resided in the Home for longer or shorter periods since its beginning. Of these, four have completed the two years' course of study and training and have received diplomas; eight are engaged in mission work, seven under the Foreign Mission Committee of our Church, and one employed as a Bible woman in a large city congregation. A number of non-resident students have attended the lectures each year.

Officers

Not least among the factors in the success of the W. F. M. S was the wise selection of its early officers. We were specially favored at the beginning in having the management in the hands of deeply devoted women of marked business ability and strong Christian character, the value of whose services cannot be easily over estimated.



Rev. Dr. Reid

The Society has had but three Presidents. The first was Mrs. MacLaren, who held the office for five years, and who was a guiding spirit in a time which demanded much wisdom and tact as well as faith and patience. The state of her health necessitating her retirement at the end of that time, she was succeeded by Mrs. Thomas Ewart, who also had held office from the first. Mrs. Ewart was President for sixteen years. She gave all her powers with unreserved devotion and unflagging energy to the work, showing a mastery of every department to the minutest detail, and

ruling with firmness tempered with love through years, when at times there was much to try the patience and test the wisdom of those in office. When Mrs. Ewart, full of years and working actively till almost the very end of her life, was gathered home in May, 1897, Mrs. MacLaren was again called to be President and for two years guided the deliberations of the Board, but her physical strength not being equal to the strain she was obliged to retire from the office to the re gret of all at the close of 1899, when Mrs. Shortreed was elected President.

Another early officer to whom the Society owes much was Mrs. MacMurchy, for eleven years Recording Secretary,* one year first Vice-President and one year and a half Foreign Secretary. During those thirteen years her faithfulness to duty and loveliness of character, no less than her high mental gifts, endeared her to those associated with her.

A grateful tribute is also due to Miss Topp (now Mrs. Alexander), the first Home Secretary, who gave eight years of youthful zeal and diligence to the work. Her reports give evidence of great breadth of view and clearness of vision as to the aims and future place of the Society.

Of her successor, Mrs. Hugh Campbell, who held the office for five years, we are forbidden to speak in terms of appreciation such as she deserves. The W. F. M S. knows Mrs. Campbell well, and she will ever hold a warm place in their affectionate gratitude. Probably all do not know how she labored above measure from the year 1884 till 1899, the work expanding rapidly during that time and largely increasing her duties year by year, until at length it became necessary to divide the work into four departments with a secretary for each.

She was followed by Mrs. Shortreed, who gave eight years to the Home department, and whose labors bore fruit in much enlargement and development of the Society.

In 1897 Mrs. Grant became Home Secretary, and proved herself a worthy successor in the line of business ability and personal interest in all the branches.

Mrs. Harvie's name and work need only to be mentioned to bring before us her great zeal and her earnest, untiring labors. She served the Society as Foreign Secretary for nineteen years, a period which was divided into two terms owing to her temporary retirement from ill health. Mrs. MacMurchy was elected in 1889 and continued in office till the following year when she was taken from us. When Mrs. Harvie withdrew to take up another important branch of

* It is a matter of sincere regret that no good photograph of Mrs. MacMurchy is in existence, hence the absence of one among those which appear in these pages.

philanthropic work in 1896, Mrs. Shortreed was chosen to take her place and held the office for three years. In 1899 Mrs Bell was appointed and is our present Foreign Secretary.

We have had four Treasurers, the first of whom was Mrs. King, wife of the late Principal King. Mrs. King held a very high place in the regard of her fellow-workers, both as an efficient officer and a loved friend, and was much missed when she removed to Winnipeg in 1884, and sincerely mourned when in 1886 she was called away from earth to heaven.

Mrs. MacLennan presided ably over the Treasury for eleven years, resigning in 1896, when Mrs. McGaw was appointed, who was succeeded in 1897 by Miss George, who is still in office.

There is one more outstanding name which we sadly miss from the list of officers at this anniversary, a name lovingly cherished by friends in Ontario and by missionaries and Indians in the Northwest. In October, 1900, Mrs. Jeffrey was called home at the close of fifteen years of faithful service as a member and officer of the Board. She was Supply Secretary from 1890 till 1896, at which date the work of the secretaries was re-arranged, and Mrs. Jeffrey was appointed Secretary of the whole of the Indian work in the Northwest and British Columbia, including the management of supplies. She performed the duties of this office, it might almost be said, till the day of her death with energy and earnestness beyond praise. Her knowledge of the work was wide and accurate, her sympathy with the missionaries sincere and strong, and her business capacity remarkable. Her visits to the schools and reserves, in the first instance in company with Mrs. Harvie, were a means of blessing in encouraging the lonely workers in distant places, in bringing them into closer personal relation with the Board and in awakening interest in the Indians throughout the Society.

Of the other officers who have faithfully served the Society as secretaries or vice-presidents during the past twenty-five years, it will be impossible to speak at length, but there is one who cannot be passed by without special notice. Readers will easily guess that Mrs. Telfer is that one. In our review of the Publication department some statements are made which may convey an idea at least of the magnitude of her labor. Of her energy, accuracy, discrimination and zeal for the Lord's cause we may not speak as we would desire, but the W.F.M.S. at large ought to know the fact that the work done by Mrs. Telfer represents a very considerable amount of money saved for the Society, both in the expense of management and in the sums handed over to the General Treasury every year from profits of sales

Let it not for one moment be thought that because special reference is made here to officers and members of the Board we forget the many hundreds of officers throughout the Society who have done their part with equal faithfulness and often under far greater difficulties. Let the fact once more be emphasized that the great work has been done in the Auxiliaries. In some of these there have been women continuously in office since 1876. Ladies of fourscore are working as presidents, and one of over ninety has been presiding over an Auxiliary for several years

The name of the Rev. Wm. Reid, D.D., for twenty years auditor of our Society, deserves an honored place in this history. Dr. Reid was a true friend to the W.F M.S., and his advice and assistance were most valuable. His work as auditor was ever cheerfully given, although of necessity always coming upon him at his busiest season.

The thanks of the Society are due also to Rev. Dr. Warden, who since Dr. Reid's death has kindly audited our books.

The conveners of the F. M. Committee, Rev. Dr. MacLaren, Rev. Dr. Wardrope, Mr. Hamilton Cassels, Rev. Dr. Moore and the Foreign Mission Secretary, Rev. Dr. R. P. Mackay, have all taken a deep interest in the aims and objects of the Society, and have from time to time given us valuable counsel which we gratefully remember.

There are other dear friends who were with us on the Board in the earliest years and who we cannot but feel are with us in spirit to-day though gone forever from our mortal sight. Among these we cherish the memory of Mrs. Macdonnell, whose pen and voice did much for the work; Mrs. Dr. Burns, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs McMurrich, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Milligan, Mrs. Gilray, Mrs. Galbraith, Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Topp, and Mrs. Kirkland. All these, departed in the faith, their task completed, their victory won; they are at rest in Jesus, and ere long we too shall follow them and others will take our places, but we rejoice to know that the Lord's work will not cease till His Kingdom is established in the earth.